

Head of School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2017

Welcome - Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with your child's education: homework, attendance, encouragement, fundraising and costumes! This has been an even longer than usual (an impressive 8 weeks) half term packed with experiences, fun and festivity! Your children continue to amaze me and are a huge credit to you. Thank you ☺

School Trips - Robinwood: As usual, Year 4 children, embarked on their residential experience at the outward bound centre in Alston. This can be a turning point for some of our children as for many it is the first time they have spent time apart from their families. The children (and our volunteers) had a truly amazing experience and tackled every activity with determination, enthusiasm and team work. Thank you to all the parents who supported the children with funds, clothing and packing. A special thank you must go to the parents who gave up their holidays to support us; Mrs I'Anson and Mrs Radmore as well the teachers; Miss Mackintosh and Mr King. It was a very special experience for us all and has given the children and adults life long memories.



Eden Camp - Year 5 visited Eden Camp to support and extend their learning about World War II. The children had a great day. Their favourite exhibits were Hut 5, which re-creates the sights, sounds and smells of a bombed street during The Blitz, and Hut 3, which gave a taste of what it would have been like on a submarine under attack in the North Atlantic. The children were extremely well-behaved and represented our school very well.



Foundation - This year, our Foundation children visited Bowes museum and had a fabulous experience as they met a very important man: Santa Claus! It's such a special time for our youngest children as they have just started to understand the magic of Father Christmas; to see the awe and wonder is heart-warming. The staff at the museum were extremely complimentary about the children so a huge well to Foundation.



Performances:

Key Stage 2 - Singing Performance

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 wowed the audience with their beautiful singing in November. It was an opportunity for the children to showcase the work they have been doing with Miss Sheraton and Mr Gibson.

The children had only been singing with Miss Sheraton for 10 weeks but the quality of their singing was amazing. I cannot wait to see what they will do in the summer! Watch this space for an update in next term's newsletter following Darlington's Schools Eurovision Song Contest. We have been lucky enough to have been selected 'Save All your Kisses' which we are all very excited about and rehearsals have already begun.



Key Stage 1 - Humph!

A huge well done to all our Key Stage 1 children who told the story of the first Christmas through a grumpy camel! It was full of laughter, excellent narrating, singing and performing. Thank you to all parents who have supported children with lines, costumes and practising songs. Thank you to the Key Stage 1 teachers for providing us with a lovely re-telling of Christmas.



Foundation - The Nativity

The Foundation children were amazing retelling the story of the First Christmas through narration, singing and performing. It was incredible to see how well the children sang, narrated and performed after just a short time in school. They had only been practising for three weeks and after such a busy first term, they should be extremely proud; we were and I know parents and families were very proud too. Thank you to all parents who supported with costumes, lines and practising the variety of songs. A special thank you must go to the Foundation team who worked their magic to create a very special story.



Carol Service - It was lovely to see so many of you join us at our carol service. We hope you agree the children sang beautifully and behaved impeccably. Thank you to our Year 5 and Year 6 children who chaperoned our youngest children taking very special care of them.



Sporting Achievements - In Key Stage 1, the children have had a Funky Feet coach teaching them balance and core skills. They have also built up their fitness skills and stamina through shuttle runs, long distance running and skipping activities. In Key Stage 2, the children have continued to develop teamwork and game skills in a variety of activities, such as TAG rugby, cricket and hockey. They have also continued to develop their dancing skills and techniques with our dance coach from Nouveau Wellbeing.

The children have also had the opportunity to participate in after-school and lunchtime sports clubs, including girls' football, MGFA football academy, cricket club and netball. A special thank you to Mrs Jones and Mrs Johnson for our continued lunchtime netball sessions.

Attendance - Thank you, our attendance as a whole school, for this Autumn Term, as at Friday 15th December 2017, was 97.0%, this is a little lower than the same time last year's Autumn Term figures of 97.3%. Congratulations to the children below who have attended school every day since September. As a reward they were awarded their bronze attendance certificate in our celebration assembly and received a sticker and gift.

- Foundation - Lily Bainbridge, Kieran Baines, Owen Brindle, Max Evans, Paige Golightly, Grace Hickmans, Jessie Horton-Thomas, Ralph Leverton, Jay Marriner, Lucas Orange-Thompson, William Price and Georgie Wood.
- Year 1 - Samuel Ayre, Emira Bakan, Madison Brown, Jake Clayton, Alexander Gardner, Chloe Graham, Samuel Griffiths, Isaac Hallett, Henry Jones, Tinashe Kushamba, Isabella Laidler, Elliot McDonald, Austin Reeve, Lexi Russell, Betsy Scanlan, Jacob Stamp and Samuel Himsforth.
- Year 2 - Zoe Baines, Daniel Brindle, Xienna-Dior French, William Hatch, George Metcalfe and Ethan Walker.
- Year 3 - Grace Airey, Apo Bakan, David Carter, Luke Gardner, Jenson Golightly, Oliver King, Tendai Kushamba, Iris Lawley, Alexander Mann, Charlotte McCabe, Harry Orange-Thompson, Lydia Robinson, Monty Shepherd, Melissa Sloan, Finlay Smith and Joshua Wood.
- Year 4 - Thomas Adamson, Boston French, Josie Johnson, Freddie Radmore, Luke Slater, Austin Stockdale, Cara Blackburn, Isobel Dryden, Hollie Jackson and Kirsty Warwick.
- Year 5 - Liam Atkins, Scarlett Jones, Zara Jones, George Leah, Dylan McBride, Anna Porter, Finlay Scarr and Oliver Porter.
- Year 6 - James Akers, Lauryn Byrne-Buchanan, Hannah Dryden, Oliver Flynn, Emilia Hallett, James Horniman, Ciara Johnson, Aaron Learoyd, Jessie Walker, Morgan Johnson, Skye Smith and Summer Atkins.

Special mention -

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the PSHE (personal, social health and emotional) quality mark for the education, experiences, support and nurture we provide our children. We are only 1 of a few schools in Darlington to have received this award and are very proud. A huge well done and thank you to Mrs Sellars for leading on this.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Meeting place	Pick-up
Art Club			3.20 - 4.30			Art Room	Reception
Board Games Club	3.20 - 4.20					Hall	Reception
Choir			3.20 - 4.20			Hall	Reception
French Club		3.20 - 4.20				Hall	Reception
MGFA					3.20 - 4.30		Rear Gates
Street Dance				3.20 - 4.30		Hall	Reception

Keeping your children safe - The most important role we have in school is keeping your children safe. This half term we have all received our annual Level 1 Safeguarding training with myself as Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs Passman as Deputy receiving termly updates and training. The staff have had refresher training in CPR and using the defibrillator and some staff have either refreshed or attended for the first time, paediatric training. Keeping children safe on line is a constant action and we are pleased to announce we will be holding some workshops next term to support our children and parents/carers.

PTA - Thank you to the PTA for their hard work in organising, preparing and supporting the School Fair (before and after!). Total funds raised were in excess of £1,000. The next fundraiser will be the school disco in February and our sports day. If anyone is interested in joining the PTA in any way (organising, supporting or in any other way) please contact Lyn Hatch care of admin@hurworthprimary.com.

Uniform - We will be introducing an outdoor PE uniform starting **Autumn 2018**. The decision has made to eliminate pressure around branding and ultimately to bring our outdoor uniform in line with the rest of the school. We are hoping this will be less expensive as the uniform will consist of plain black jogging bottoms, white crew neck t-shirt, royal blue shorts and royal blue jogging top. School branded items are available on the website, however, if you prefer **non-branded** would also be acceptable. We thank you for your support with this.



Thank you - We just wanted to save a huge thank you supporting our fundraising events; shoebox appeal, Children in Need, Save the children and my personal fundraiser for school and kidney research which has raised in excess of £2,000. We really do appreciate your generosity and all proceeds raised will make a difference.

Pantomime - It was lovely to return to the newly named Hippodrome to see Snow White. The whole school had a fantastic time and fully embraced audience participation with booing, hissing, applauding and cheer; we were loud but all in traditional panto spirit. Thank you to our volunteers and Mrs Kukielka for organising the entire trip.



Finally - Our school is a very special place and we hope you agree. It's filled with happy, engaged and hard working pupils who are supported by a team of dedicated, passionate and caring staff and parents; who motivate, nurture and work tirelessly.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your precious families.

Best wishes and a merry Christmas,

Mrs Maddison ☺

